Consuelo Company Starts Placer Work

The Consuelo Oregon Mines is the name of the new company operating a shovel placer on Cracker creek a short distance above Sumpter.

A huge electric power shovel was landed on the ground about two weeks ago and last Sunday it was digging gravel which was washed through the plant for recovery of the gold in the gravel.

Max Hofman, who has been operating such plants in California, is on the ground in charge of the work.
Second Dredge Operating, Sumpter

Consuelo Mines Move In From California

Sumpter — (Special) — The Consuelo Oregon Mines company started operations Sunday evening on Powder river near the mouth of Cracker creek immediately above the town. This is the second dredge mining operation for this locality, the Sumpter Valley dredge, a quarter-million dollar boat and the largest in the Northwest has been running steadily for over two years several miles below Sumpter.

The new operation is using a "doodle bug" outfit with an electric dragline of about three-eighths yard capacity operating on crawler tracks from the shore with the washing plant located on an all-steel electric boat.

The operators had just dismantled the modern equipment at Oroville, Calif., after two years operation and Max Hofmann of the company indicated they expect to work in this section for at least four years, turning over the gravel for gold which in years past has come down from the famous local lodes.

In immediate prospect is another mining operation in the same part of the county, near Granite, where Porter Bros. last year tested ground and where machinery has already been taken this year by A. E. Murray for the company, presumably to prepare for dredging. The Noons, and a third company are also understood to be prospecting some ground there. The former were previously in this section with dredges and are now of California. The Granite road is now open to motor travel.

For the past several months C. H. Timms of the Timms Gold Dredging company of the North Fork near Galena has been acquiring claims and ground near Whitney. It is thought that tests have been successful and that an additional ground is obtained some sort of placer mining will be under way there before year's-end. This is the Sumpter Valley railroad, North fork river south-
Dragline Shuts Down Near Sumpter

Sumpter—(Special)—The Consuelo-Oregon doodle bug on Cracker creek has closed down because of lack of ground. The company's other plant working on Three Cents creek near Whitney is being moved to the upper end of Bull Run creek near Granite. The Cracker creek operation has taken several years.

The thousand Monigan dragline of the Northwest Development company here has shut down for extensive repairs on the undercarriage.
SUMPTER, Nov. 16—The Con-suco Oregon Mines company has started dredging operations in a new location on McCulley's creek, about two miles west of Sumpter. The company, under the management of Max Hofmann, has been dredging on Powder river the past three years.

The little rough board fire-house
NEW DREDGE IS IN SIGHT FOR SUMPTER AREA

California People Testing
Dredge Gravel Near Sumpter

WORK FINISHED ON CRACKER CREEK

Moves Equipment to McCully's Fork, Will Test Ground in Sumpter and Along S. V. Tracks.

There is strong probability that Sumpter will soon see another gold dredge in operation. Max Hoffman of California, has been engaged several weeks in testing dredge placers on Cracker creek above Sumpter. It was reported in Baker yesterday that Mr. Hoffman had completed his work on Cracker creek and is moving his equipment to McCully's Fork where he has contracts and leases on an acreage from W. C. Calder of Baker, and other parties.

Mr. Hoffman is also understood to have secured rights to lands in the Sumpter townsite and along the Sumpter valley railroad which were not worked by the old dredge. This land will also be thoroughly prospected by Mr. Hoffman before undertaking to install equipment for working the ground.
DRAGLINES FOR DREDGING ARE IN THE FRONT

Doodlebug Plant To Be Installed on Cracker Creek

PLANT TO USE 15-MAN CREW

Granite District To Have New Dredging Operations, Testing to Start in the Spring.

With the coming of spring there is promise of considerable increased activity in gold dredging operations. Last fall Max Hoffman of Oroville, Cal., purchased gold dredging lands on Cracker Creek above Sumpter. The land was tested during the fall for the gold value.

A few days ago Mr. Hoffman was in Baker and Sumpter. He visited the ground and expects to return about the first of April or as soon as the ground is free of snow.

The equipment to be installed will be similar to that of the Ferris and Marchbank operation on the John Day. It will be a washing plant on a steel boat, with a dragline shovel on the shore. Mr. Hoffman has been operating such plants in California. A crew of 15 men will be employed in the operation.

The Granite district will be the scene of one or more such operations this summer, according to reports from that section. The Porter Brothers of Montana, spent last year testing lands on Granite, Clear, and Olive Creeks in that district. As soon as the roads over the mountains are open for travel the Porter Brothers will have a prospecting crew in the field there it is reported to complete their testing work. Their last work was on Crane Flat.

J. W. Noon and associates, also have options on lands in the Granite district, and are waiting the coming of spring so they can complete prospecting their holdings.

The success of dragline shovels -doodle bugs, as they are called - is turning the attention of many to this type of placer mining. The investment is much less than with bucket line dredges and they are found better adapted for working areas that do not have sufficient yardage for the standard dredges.

Eastern Oregon News, Baker
March 11, 1938
Dragline d-edge equipment similar to that used by Ferris and Marchbank at John Day, Oregon, is to be installed on placer claims on Cracker Creek above Sumpter. Max Hoffmann of Oroville, California, took over the ground last year and is now at Sumpter in charge of operations. Work began recently with a crew of 15 men.
The weather here this week has been perfect, the unusual warmth melting fully half the snow, and has softened the snow in the higher regions.

The river is already high, and it is rising rapidly. This high water, which is caused by the melting of the snow in the high mountains, is not usually expected before the first week of April or later. It causes a great deal of inconvenience to the dredges and draglines operating along the river.

The Max Hoffman dragline resumed operations during the past week. It is located some three and one-half miles above Sumpter on Cracker creek on the Bourne road. Only three of the crew who were here when the dragline closed for the winter are again employed.


James Rew came out from the New York mine to work here. Because six miles of the trip had to be made on snowshoes, he left his family at the mine until the spring break-up.
California dredging interests are reported to have completed tests on Cracker Creek above Sumpter, Oregon, and to be moving equipment to McCully’s Fork, where property has been leased from W. C. Galder of Baker and others. Max Hofmann, associated with the Consuelo dragline at Honcut, California, is at Sumpter in charge of testing.
Sumpter may have a new gold dredge operation as a result of testing placer ground in the Cracker Creek section, by Max Hoffman, of California. His equipment will work on ground in McCully's Fork, belonging to W. E. Calder of Baker. The building of a dredge awaits completion of all testing.

Max Hoffman has installed a large electric power shovel at his dredge operations on Cracker Creek, above Sumpter.
Installing Placer Equipment at Mine

A large 12-yd. shovel was delivered to Cracker creek above Skyline creek for use in the Placer mining dredge operation. The shovel weighed more than 5 tons and a special truck was brought from Portland to transport the huge machine to the property.

In addition to the shovel several truck loads of other equipment were delivered to the mine.

Mr. Hoffman purchased several mining claims on Cracker creek last fall which were tested with the result that he will start active operation and production as soon as the equipment is installed.
California dredging interests are reported to have completed tests on Cracker Creek above Sumpter, Oregon, and to be moving equipment to McCully's Fork, where property has been leased from W. C. Calder of Baker and others. Max Hofmann, associated with the Consuelo dragline at Honcut, California, is at Sumpter in charge of testing.
Dredging equipment similar to that used by Ferris and Marchbank at John Day, Oregon, is to be installed on placer claims on Cracker Creek above Sumpter. Max Hoffmann of Oroville, California, took over the ground last year and is now at Sumpter in charge of operations. Work began recently with a crew of 15 men.